

THE

SPUR

Vol. IX

No.



THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

"To each his need, from each his power"

Vol. IX., No. 2.

Summer, 1950.

IN MEMORIAM

1939 — 1945

M. H. C. ASHDOWN	W. A. BAILEY	R. W. JONES
J. A. G. BILLINGHAM	R. L. BARNES	D. C. MAYNARD
D. H. ELLIS	A. V. I. COOK	F. E. SPINKS
J. W. ROBBINS	J. E. FISHER	A. UFF
J. F. SMITH	B. PARKER	J. A. SMITH
S. G. PALK	V. G. SAYER	R. D. FRANKS

We Shall Remember Them

In the brittle half light of the evening ;
In the masculine precision of the dawn ;
In the enervating heat of midmorning ;
With human sweat alone to lay the dust,
In such minutes do we feel them martyrs,
And would restore them that life they have lost.
They died for England, and the Sun's rustic pattern through the leaves
And the coal grit and red rust.

Against old walls we see new faces,
The ash and the elm have new leaves,
Other mouths open in their places,
Different flags flutter in the wind,
But the worn and sunken kerbstone,
And the dartboard at the local,
Are cenotaphs of remembrance for these.

These other few, whose footfalls are for ever on the path
Behind the door we dare not open, round that corner we cannot pass.
Once were we with them in the foggy street,
But now the swirling globules of its mists coagulate,
And then hang still suspended :
The firm but bitter barrier of the years.

Our memory of them shall be a rainbow without rain ;
Their photographs shall not be yellow in our mind,
Their hands unseen shall finger-print our way,
Their blood and wounds shall stain our course in life.

C. W. B.

Reprinted from the First Folio of Verse.

On June 4th, at a moving ceremony in the School Hall, the Lord Bishop of Southwark, assisted by the Rev. E. W. Eyden, Vicar of St. Saviour's, Raynes Park, and the Rev. Dr. F. Coventry, dedicated a plaque in memory of those Old Boys who fell in the War. The memorial was unveiled by Mr. John Garrett, the first Head Master, in the presence of the Head Master, Mr. Charles Wrinch, the second Head Master, parents and relatives, the Governors, Old Boys, Staff and boys.

SCHOOL OFFICERS

Head of the School : B. M. Jones.

Prefects : J. R. Wells, G. D. Pegrum, M. D. Holgate, R. C. Simpson, N. J. McDonald, D. A. W. Marles, A. G. Simpson, I. B. S. Law, J. B. Florentine, C. P. Tutt, J. C. Powell.

Prefect of Hall : D. A. W. Marles.

Captain of Cricket : M. D. Holgate.

Secretary of Cricket : C. P. Tutt.

Secretary of Games Committee : A. G. Simp

Librarian : J. P. Hood Phillips.

Acknowledgments :

The Aldenhamian, The Ashtedian, The Beccehamian, Bristol Grammar School Chronicle, Bryanston Saga, Caterham School Magazine, The Kingstonian, King Edward VI Grammar School Magazine, The Radleian, Wellingtonian.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of these contemporaries and apologise for any inadvertent omissions.

Editors : William Walsh, J. M. Hoare.

THE GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body as constituted in 1935 was replaced by a newly constituted body in January 1950.

The old Governing Body was concerned with the School only, and consisted of 12 representative governors and three co-opted by them. Of the 12 representative governors, three were nominated by Merton and Morden Urban District Council, two by Malden and Coombe Borough Council, and one by the University of London.

The new Governing Body is responsible not only for this School, but also for the Bushey Boys' Secondary, Junior and Infants' Schools, and for Raynes Park Girls' Secondary, Junior and Infants' Schools. It consists of 15 representative governors and one co-opted by them. Of the 15 representative governors six are nominated by the Divisional Executive, three by Merton and Morden Urban District Council, one by Malden and Coombe Borough Council, and one by the University of London. The remaining four are nominated direct by the County Education Committee.

The names of the present members of the Governing Body are:—

County Representatives: Mr. C. D. Cobbett; Mrs. H. Cobbett, J.P.; Mrs. E. Hailstone, J.P.; Mr. L. A. G. Strong, B.A.

Divisional Executive Representatives: Mrs. F. Berner, Mr. W. J. Edmunds, Mr. J. C. Hudson, Mr. W. S. Le Cros Clark, Mr. A. W. Moore, Lady Palmer.

Merton and Morden Representatives: Mr. S. W. Billingham, J.P. (Vice-Chairman); Mr. A. H. Gray; Mr. V. Talbot.

Malden and Coombe Representative: Mr. L. C. Kington.

University of London Representative: Mr. J. Hood Phillips, M.A. (Chairman).

Co-opted Governor: Mrs. E. W. Eyden.

General School Fund, 1949-50

The accounts of General School Fund, our joint budget, for the year ending at Easter have since been audited and passed by the Governing Body. In outline they are as follows:—

INCOME	£	s.	d.
Boys' termly subscriptions, and other donations ...	284	17	0
Half proceeds of the 1949 Garden Party ...	181	6	11
Sale of fixture-cards and THE SPUR (to Old Boys) ...	41	7	11
Open Night gifts for the Library ...	31	16	0
Sale of old projector ...	60	0	0
Minor items ...	8	10	7
Total ...	£607	18	5

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.
Printing of magazine and diaries ...	171	15	0
Library books and expenses ...	42	3	9
Games expenses, fares, teas, etc. ...	129	4	7
Hockey Nets ...	7	16	3
First XV Rugger Shirts ...	33	7	6
Subscriptions (to Rugby Union, etc.) ...	8	6	0
Tablecloths ...	11	13	6
Microphone and Stand ...	8	13	5
Art Room Screens ...	10	5	8
Potter's lamp, electric wiring, etc. ...	10	1	7
Minor items, aid to clubs, etc. ...	28	19	8
Total ...	£462	6	11

You will see that the result of the year's working is a balance in hand of £145 11s. 6d., a pleasant contrast with the figures for last year, when we over-spent our income by almost as much. We had to buy no large exceptional items, such as the new projector last year and equipment for the "Oberon" pavilion and (probably) the stage curtains next year. On the other hand, the "income" includes the windfall of £60 for which we sold the old projector, a pre-war GB-scope. But even without this, we received in normal income nearly a hundred pounds more than we spent, which goes half-way towards meeting the cost of the new stage curtains which we now badly need.

Those to whom the School owes gratitude for their work for, or their liberal expenditure at, the Garden Party will see how useful their effort was; expenses on what might be called the regular items of Games, Library (less Open Night gifts), and THE SPUR alone come to over £360—seventy-five pounds odd more than is received in normal terminal subscriptions. As it is, the Fund is in a sound and satisfactory condition.

T. H. P.

HOUSE NOTES

Cobb's

Captain: A. G. Simpson.

Vice-Captain: A. Melmoth.

This term has not yet produced the majority of results in the host of competitions which draw our attention, but at the end of qualifying we are lying in a respectable position. We are unfortunate in not possessing a large number of "finalists", and for this reason, qualifying points are of prime importance to us. In the non-qualifying sports we are also making good headway.

At the beginning of the term we lost David Beardwell who has rendered invaluable services to the House in such fields as dramatics and debating. We wish him all possible success in his future career.

Hockey

After a promising start to the season with several wins we eventually landed with a bump in third position. Our Seniors played well but lacked the cohesion of a team which is so essential in such a game as this. The Colts, as usual, spared no means to beat their opponents and produced good results.

Boxing

With our "bigger and better" teams we were this year able to show that we can at least defend ourselves with our fists. With several members of the House reaching the finals we gained second position.

Debating

After beating Newsom's in the second round we met Halliwell's in the final and after an extremely lively and interesting debate were narrowly defeated. It was the only occasion on which the judges were divided in their opinion and even the chairman had difficulty in deciphering the result!

Cricket

The Seniors, in their only match so far, have beaten Halliwell's comfortably and are looking forward to further wins. The Colts have played excellent Cricket throughout the term and Halliwell's, Gibb's and Milton's come within reach of their conquering hand. Newsom's however proved to be a tougher proposition and the match was lost by three wickets. The fact that the high scores always come from a different quarter of the team is significant of the uniform quality of the team. The Juniors are still trying hard but have been unfortunate in not meeting with very great success.

Athletics

The qualifying season has just finished and we are now lying in the middle of the table. Especial mention is due to Shepherd, D.C., Osborne and Barnstorf who qualified in all events and also our congratulatory letters are due to Brooke and Eales who both gained first places at Amber Court.

Swimming

Although we are only lying second in qualifying points at the moment it is good to notice that we have more points than ever before and this is due largely to all efforts of our hard working captain, Alan Melmoth.

Tennis

Our team has so far won both its matches. In that against Gibb's we won after a fluctuating struggle. Against Milton's we won fairly easily. We have in our team two very promising Colt players in Cook and Brooke.

Dramatics

This term John Hoare is producing "I Will Arise" by T. B. Morris. The preliminary work of line learning and reading is well under way and stage rehearsals have begun. With the necessary co-operation from the House, this will be a good production.

Gibb's

- Captain : B. M. Jones.
- Vice-Captain : N. J. MacDonald.
- Prefects : B. M. Jones, N. J. MacDonald, M. D. Holgate, I. B. S.
- Law.

Hockey

The Senior team may be congratulated in obtaining second place in the competition, but the Colts, as is their unhappy wont, again distinguished themselves rather by lack of prowess than by victory.

Boxing

In the Boxing, we may record a positive success. After a struggle, or rather a fight, we attained the Cup in all its glory and with all its capacity, which latter we explored at the House supper which resulted. The win, we owe, in no small measure, to Bunch, who not only captained the team but also made a personal contribution to the pugilism of the

Cricket

A similar state exists here as occurred with the Hockey. The Colt team has lost what the Senior and Junior teams have gained. A number of matches remain to be played and in these we wish the teams luck. A. F. Wright is to be congratulated on obtaining a permanent position in the School team.

Athletics

Qualifying points have been up to standard and it can be fairly said that the talent which fate has allotted to us has been used to the full and will be used, to good effect we hope, in the coming sports.

Tennis

Success has not crowned our endeavours in this sport, for we have so far lost the two matches against Cobb's and Halliwell's respectively. Nevertheless our margin of failure has been small enough to admit of high hopes for the remaining games.

Swimming

Here we have hopes for the cup. We have a substantial lead in qualifying points and with luck we may retain this lead in the Swimming sports.

House Play

This year we have again followed the precedent set up last year and the majority of the House is engaged, actively we hope, in the play. However, it is to be hoped that all concerned will bear in mind, that the success of the Play does not rest in the lap of the Gods, so much as in the lap of all those engaged in the production. We hope that the stage will not collapse under the weight of the cast.

It is a strange and remarkable thing that there is, and has been for many years in Gibb's House, as it were a gulf of talent in the middle forms. Our Junior and Senior teams are capable of holding their own in all things, yet our unfortunate Colts have trod the road to defeat so many times that we can only hope that they have not forgotten the path of glory. I end with a plea to the rising generation of Junior not to descend into this "valley of the shadow" when they leave the second forms, but to bridge this crevasse and to continue without a collapse of ability to the Senior school.

Mr. Gibb was wont to say, "Gibb's is always different," by which he meant that it was different in being better. But the choice as always lies with the members of the House. We do not expect everyone to excel at all activities, but we do expect everyone to try. "Before man is life and death; and whichever he liketh, it shall be given him."

B.M.J.

Halliwell's

- Captain : J. R. Wells.
- Vice-Captain : D. A. W. Martles.
- Prefects : J. R. Wells, D. A. W. Martles, J. C. Powell.

Once again the five House Captains place "inky hands to puzzled heads" as they attempt to sort out the achievements, and details, of their House since the last edition of The Spur. And the intricacy of school life this term is certainly causing some puzzled heads. With scarcely time for the normal programme. But, as some fatuous philosopher once said, "troubles are born for man to overcome," or similar words, and so life has glided smoothly forward. Though perhaps those suffering the examinations may be excused for not agreeing. As the Chaplain said, this may appear a little thapsodical :

We are still one and a half points ahead for Cock House, and strange to say, by reason of our less noble efforts last term. We came fourth, both in Hockey and in the blood sport, Boxing. It would be nice to think that it was because we love our fellows too much to break their legs with a hockey stick or their noses with a leather glove. But it is with regret that we report the other Houses were just too good. Where we will be placed at the end of this year remains obscured in the hopes and fears of several hundred boys.

There remain on the shelf for competition in these last few weeks of term the Cricket, Tennis, Swimming, Athletics and Dramatics Cups. The Cricket team are not strong enough in bowlers to have any hopes of winning more than one or two matches. In fact, Jack Mason has already seen his team lose dishearteningly to Cobb's.

This year, the House Play is Leonard Andreyev's circus play, "He Who Gets Slapped." It has, of course, been conceived in the imagination of John Powell, and it is in the process of partition. We all hope that this new production will meet with the same success as his previous creations.

The House still contains the kernel of the School Tennis team. Michael Davis is the captain, and our players have already beaten Gibb's and Newsoms. This leaves Milton's and Cobb's to be met and, we hope, beaten.

The response of the House to the need for qualifying points in the Athletics competition was good. We have a comfortable lead, which should be well supported on Sports Day, judging by the prowess of House athletes in external competitions. This offers a strange contrast to our position in the Swimming. We are only third. In previous years we have relied on winning this cup with a modicum of ease. But Wimbledon baths, we shall be lucky this year to come second.

Last year we lost Mr. Hallam, and this term we are going to lose Mr. Lyle. This means that we shall be without our two junior House masters. We are more than sorry to see them go, but for both of them it is a step forward on their careers. It will be as difficult to replace them adequately as it is to thank them for their service to the House. As a House, we hope to win Cock House again, but there is a certain complacency creeping over the members this year. Perhaps this can be excused when it is remembered it is born of five years supremacy.

Milton's

Captain : G. D. Peggum.
Vice-Captain : C. P. Turf.

Last term we managed by good team work to win the Hockey competition. This was a great success especially for the Senior team who had no goals scored against them, and ended the season with 11 goals to their credit. The Colts too must be congratulated on winning one vital match and drawing another. Without the points gained from these matches, the effort of the Senior team would have been of little use. This is the first Cup we have won for two years and we hope this will renew House Spirit in other fields, we must not be content with one garland.

Turning to this term's event we find a mixture of the brilliant and the mediocre. The Junior Cricket team has played splendid cricket, winning their matches in grand style. They have only one other match to play and they must surely win the Junior competition. The potentially powerful Senior team has still to play a match; the Colts, however, have had an unfortunate start to the season, for in this team we lack the nucleus of sound players who hold a team together. They have, however, improved and in their last match beat Newson's who were well placed to win the trophy.

The Athletics qualifying has been most disappointing and not all members of the House have pulled their weight, but we hope to do well on the Sports Day with our few accomplished athletes. The Swimming qualifying has much the same complexion as the athletics qualifying. The House lacks good swimmers, but under the leadership of Christmas, a sparkling performer, should do extremely well in several events on the day of competition.

House Play rehearsals have just reached the point where the producer tears his greying locks. Half the cast is taking School Certificate, but the play is cast and some of the players at least have an inkling of their lines. The play is an experiment, being, 'Lady Precious Stream,' in traditional Chinese style. We hope the politeness of our players will coerce the judge into a favourable frame of mind, and the property men will not be over zealous.

Newson's

G.D.P.

We are unfortunate this term in losing our House-Captain, J. B. Florentine and our Vice-Captain, R. C. Simpson. They were both prominent and vigorous in every House activity and we will miss their leadership. We wish them every good fortune for the future.

Hockey

As a supplement to last term's results we had the satisfaction of drawing our last match 3-3 with Cobb's, but we have more reason for optimism in the Colt XI which won easily all its matches. As a result of the team's efforts we finished second in the competition.

Cricket

Despite a lack of accredited talent the Senior XI was unlucky to lose by such a margin to Gibb's (76-9 to 57). This has been the only match played to date. Once more the Colts have done better; so far have won two matches, against Gibb's and Halliwell's, but lost by one run to Milton's.

Tennis

Despite the hard-working determination of Bryan Walters this season has not been distinguished by unusual success. We have vanquished Milton's and been ourselves defeated by a strong Halliwell's team.

This term is a very full one: in it some cricket, tennis, athletics, swimming and dramatics. Athletics qualifying is now over and we lie a poor second, so we must hope that the day itself will see an improvement in our position. Here, most of all, do we miss Florentine's captaincy.

Swimming gives us less reason for satisfaction. Unless some considerable effort is made we have little hope of bettering our fifth place. Miles, our Swimming Captain, has left and his duties are being temporarily undertaken by R. J. Wells.

And what of the House Play?—"Murder most Foul." If the stages are not awash with blood, if throats and skulls go unstruck, if there is not shrieking in the stalls and panic in the pit then the deep-dyed crew which passes for a cast will not be there to answer for it. They will be looking for the producer.

We lose this term a large number of our Seniors. We wish them all success and happiness in the various spheres they are about to enter, and hope that time will speedily remedy a breach in our defences, if not in our memories. The newcomers who join us next term will have a hard and interesting task before them; let us wish them well in performing it to their own satisfaction and to the credit of their House.

THE OBERON PLAYING FIELD

At the last meeting of the Governors held during Mr. Garrett's headmastership, in December 1942, Mr. Billingham persuaded them to appoint a sub-committee to find a playing field. On 25th June, 1943 a deputation from the Governors under their Chairman, Mr. Tom Bradlock, went to the County Hall, where they were sympathetically received by the Chairman of the Higher Education Committee, the late Rev. W. A. E. Austen.

The Governors reminded the Education Committee that the Board of Education had found considerable difficulty in approving the plans for the school when it was first mooted, since on pre-war standards it should have had 10 or 12 acres of playing field. The Board had agreed eventually to an unprecedented scheme, whereby the County Council, by making a capital grant of £3,500 and the promise of a maintenance grant towards the Joseph Hood Memorial Ground, acquired the right in perpetuity to the use of two football and two cricket pitches, and a pavilion. (See S.C.C. Minutes for March, 1934).

The arrangement had proved very satisfactory for a boys' grammar school with an age range of 10 to 19. When war came the Memorial Ground went over to horticulture, and the School teams lived a nomadic life among various local sports grounds, notably the Alliance, which was presumably considered unsuitable for vegetables.

The Education Committee agreed in principle to provide a playing field. Early in 1945, the Oberon Club sports ground of 9 acres, in West Wimbledon, came into the market, and was bought by the County

Council for the Raynes Park County School for Boys (see S.C.C. Minutes for March, 1946). The ground was still under allotments, and the fine pavilion useless as such owing to its transformation into an A.R.P. gas cleansing station. The hard tennis courts were derelict.

By 1947, the Divisional Executive had been created, and the Education Committee had second thoughts to the effect that the field might be given to several schools. After a conference between the Governors and the Divisional Executive the original decision of the County Council was confirmed. It was two years more before the allotment holders had departed from about three-fifths of the ground, and this portion had been put to seed at a cost of £750. The pteno-pavilion was restored.

In spite of this long process and heavy expenditure, the ship was nearly spoiled by the lack of the proverbial harporth of tar, since it proved impossible to convince the Divisional or the County Authorities that it is a waste of money (a) to provide a field without any games or maintenance equipment, and (b) to leave a hard tennis court derelict when a small expenditure would put it in commission.

All this will no doubt prove a valuable lesson in Local Government even if it has tried the patience of cricket enthusiasts. As for the tennis Court, the prime losers may well have been some other school in need who might have borrowed it.

The end is not yet. There are still over two acres and another pavilion awaiting *auschüss*. Also there are the pitches on the Joseph Hood Memorial Ground for whose use in perpetuity by school children the ratepayers have paid.

VERSE Poem

J.H.P.

"In the midst of death we are in life,"
 Almond in bloom,
 Candy-floss on a stick,
 Planted in the middle of the tombs,
 Kerbstones growing from the grass—
 Granite chips, grey slabs,
 Bcchheads, crosses pointing
 To heaven, forward, backward,
 And the longest arm
 To Hell.
 A broken pillar—"cut off in the flower of youth,"
 Who?
 "Stephen Dedalus," aged 82,"
 Dead all of us.
 On the resurrection morning, we shall rise,
 On a Sunday morning, we would rise.
 We used to come
 From the musty sanctity of gloom
 To the sunny day sun,
 Squaking shoes, stiff collars, bustles,
 All rustles.
 Then we came a day early,
 In our Rolls Royce,
 "Funny to think . . ."
 White marble glints clean and hard under
 Candy-floss on a stick,
 Almond in bloom.

1 "A broken pillar"—the Greek symbol of the death of a young person
 2 "Stephen Dedalus"—"Ulysses" by James Joyce.
 3 To be sung rhythmically, jauntily and with an American accent.
 4 "King Lear"—II, ii, 169.

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Circle of the Year

Day follows day, sloping on the circle of the year,
 That plods its slow way with footsteps dragging in the sands
 Of time's eternity.
 Moons spin, and glide, and dig, and the notched stick
 Hangs at last with its fellows in the halls of death.
 We round the centuries, swaying as we follow
 The crazy snake-trail of the Leviathan,
 Until the candle of our world gutters,
 And the flame splutters soft wax, and falls
 While only the shadows, the silent shades of Hades,
 In the fields of Elysium remember the green
 And the rich smell of soil before the angel with the vial
 Spread the oil of God and calmed the whirlpool of our earth.
 And were we born to sudden tumult in the Milky Way,
 And brief hurried year, before His hand smooths the ruffled surface
 Of space and soothes the sore with balm of oblivion?
 Shall we, having become, grow and die,
 Not even to raise the corners of the mark of Hell
 In one brief smile?

B.M.J.

Newsreel

It was hot in London.
 Hot, said the clothes of the waiter,
 Hot, said the smells in Villiers Street,
 Hot said the man in Trafalgar Square.
 The white brick was hot and pleasant
 As you walked down Regent Street.
 The afternoon teacup restaurant clatter,
 As the crowds fused and melted,
 Hot faces chasing the shadows
 Oblique placards grinned and sweltered
 Sized the cords and twisted, twisted them.
 Smile for the camera, for the world.
 Coolness in a scrap of grass, mottled green,
 London churchyard pulsing feebly
 Against the heat.
 Faint channels of baked meat odour,
 Perfume of varnished moist typists,
 Faint in the afternoon
 Smile for the camera, please.
 In Whitehall nations died
 Or justified their newsprint lives
 In the pulpy heat of the afternoon.
 You saw the wide-brimmed matinee hats
 And knew the books in the Charing Cross Road,
 But it was hot.
 The southdowns faded in the heat,
 The vast plain dwindled in the whiteness.
 London was a desert,
 Said the shadow of the one man,
 Crossing in the afternoon heat,
 Smile for the camera, for the world.

J. M. H.

CRAFT NOTES

Pride of place in this account of activities in the workshop must go to the Printers' Guild this term. They have carried out more printing than ever before and all the members have worked hard to accomplish the long list of items.

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Once again the Spur Press has produced programmes for the Garden Party, 3,000 of them this year. They have also been privileged by being appointed to print the Order of Service and Invitations for the War Memorial Unveiling. The Order of Service, fully produced in the now familiar *Perpetua*, played a fitting part in the simple dignity of the occasion. Then after there was the *Third Folio of Verse*, written by the Poetry Society, with its twelve pages of carefully laid-out printing. And the many thousands of sheets of notepaper sold at the Garden Party have kept our two presses busy. At the time of writing the *Library Review* is in the press and is to be published shortly. One of the additional features of this term's number will be a four-colour design for the cover, illustrating the appropriate season.

The Printers Guild is indebted to Mr. Shoesmith of Messrs. Parsons Fletcher for his valued advice and for supplying us with our printing inks free of charge. Friendly assistance of this kind is deeply appreciated.

The Puppet Club has taken a well-earned rest this term when the fine weather should be an inducement to enjoy the open air. Next term they will re-form and proceed with plans for the New Year's show in 1951.

The Pottery Group have made good progress. Of course by this time in the School year each group has had ample time to show its ability and the laden shelves are, in some part, a measure of their success. We have spent a good deal of time on glaze trials, particularly in relation to *matte* glazes. These, whilst not being as straight-forward as our well-known clear, or shiny, glazes, give a wider range of colour effects. The results have been encouraging.

Our first *reduction firing* took place in June. By this process the colours of our pots can be changed chemically by reducing the metallic oxides in the glazes. The reduction is achieved by burning some fuel within the kiln when the glazes are in their molten state. The Chinese produced many beautiful colours in this way some four thousand years ago. Our first results were hardly remarkable, but have been sufficiently encouraging for us to resolve that next term we shall try again.

The other many and varied craft activities have continued their progress and of course the year's work will be rounded-off on Open Night, when we shall display a selection of our various crafts together with practical demonstrations in the workshop.

D. R. S.

ART NOTES

The boys who have had paintings in the show-case this term should be congratulated on producing a good standard of work. There has been a healthy variety of pictures shown, and in some of the more mature works a beginning of real understanding of the painter's problems is becoming apparent. I should like in particular to mention Jeapes and Madgett who have produced some very interesting work. A number of boys who have started oil painting have been making studies of the work of some artist of repute, and Jeapes' copy of "The Fife Player" by Manet showed a sensitivity and competence of quite a high order. Madgett's work combines a good natural sense of colour and composition with an exceptionally fresh imagination. There is quite a School of Oil Painting growing up in the Art Room and competition amongst its members is very keen. Work by Tillinghast and Andrews should also be mentioned. The Art Prize is being keenly contested. A new venture has been started this term with Fabric Printing and we hope that as more boys master this medium, we shall have an exciting variety of materials to show. During this term one form made a sketching trip to Richmond Park to study trees which resulted in some useful observations and notes.

Slowly we are getting a number of screens made for the Art Room for the better exhibition of work and next term it is hoped that we shall be ready to resume the exhibitions of outside work which were such a success last winter. Amongst those to be arranged will be one on Christmas Cards and another on Fabric Printing. Previous exhibitions have proved most stimulating.

Amongst members of the Junior School who are showing signs of developing on the right tracks are Roberts, Hope and Dann.

Mention must also be made of the small but extremely keen Model Theatre Club which meets in the Art Room on Tuesday evenings. They have been working steadily through the term and we hope to see the results of their labours on Open Night.

Looking over the years work, no small task, if anyone should care to take a glance at the Art Room cupboards, literally bulging with efforts, one can come to the conclusion that Art is now definitely on the map and more boys are coming to realise that it has, in conjunction with Craft, a vital part to play in this School.

A. C. R.

"THE RAPE OF THE LOCKS"

"The Rape of the Locks," perhaps the largest surviving fragment of some hundred plays written by Menander, belongs to that period of Greek drama called the New Comedy, written about 330 B.C. Owing to the parlous state of Athenian affairs the unqualified right of free speech was limited and, of necessity, the dramatists concerned themselves with the problems of the average citizen, no longer singling out the great and near-great, plots if more stereotyped, became more skilful. Situations and characters were chosen which were likely to arouse merriment among the spectators. Menander was celebrated for his observation and knowledge of character. Some authorities say he was a pleasure-loving and effeminate person, while others remind us of his rakish affair with the notorious wanton Glycera (One is perhaps tempted to draw a comparison with the Glycera and Moschio affair in this present play).

It must, however, be generally agreed that the "Rape of the Locks" is not, and was not intended to be, a great comedy. It remains to the last a trifle, a pleasant two hours' traffic of the stage concerned not with morals, but a legal quibble. It demands a bright, colourful and inventive production, a spacious setting and gay costumes. This present production, by Peter Smith and Ben Vincent, scored in the broad comic scenes, but fell down, with one or two exceptions, in the more serious passages where continual use of the bench on the right hand side of the stage grew a little tiresome and a long walk up and down for Pataecus and Glycera in the second half of the play almost embarrassing. The setting, although solving the problem of disguising the arch and charmingly inoffensive in itself, was on the whole unsuitable to the play. It lacked spaciousness and a depth which could have been achieved by substituting a sky cloth for the painted hill and temple. The lighting, although adequate, could have been used more subtly to suggest sunlight pouring down on to a Greek street. The costumes, however, were delightfully satisfying in all respects and I particularly admired Polemo's wonderful shield which seemed to burst on to the stage with a blaze of colour, a most effective piece of designing and production. I would like to pay tribute in passing to Joan Riley who, besides being responsible for the beautiful costumes, was the designer of the quite superb programme cover, a really lovely piece of work.

One of the most satisfying moments of the play was the idyllic opening with the Pan-like shepherd (J. R. Stott) piping to the glowing music of Wagner as the morning sun rose, but soon to be driven from the scene by the rousing soldiers' chorus. The near ramming of Myrrhine's house by the drunken soldiers led by the gorgeously

blaspheinous Sosas of J. M. Stringer to the accompaniment of his girl friend Habron, blasting our ears with a blaringly unresponsive trumpet, provided perhaps the most hilarious moment of the play. Habron, played by M. K. G. Hudson, was a richly comical character-study worthy of great praise, as was the Glycera of G. R. Mitchell which was possibly the best performance of all. It was an extremely intelligent, alive and sensitive study, good in movement, controlled and relaxed yet rising splendidly to the emotional climaxes demanded in the second half of the play. The two old men, Philinus and Pataecus, played by D. L. Hall and P. S. Hughes were naturally enough not completely convincing. Hall's performance improved considerably over the three performances but remained too staccato and tense and not sufficiently relaxed; but at the same time he managed admirably to convey a crabbed old man and got his character over in a praiseworthy manner. P. S. Hughes, however, seemed ill-at-ease most of the time and, although he beamed benevolently was often inaudible. Doris, played by M. A. Edwards in a particularly disarming way, was most impressive. The Scottish accent was on the whole most convincing and the performance sincere and well sustained, a most attractive maid to have about the house, coy, canny, nimble and self-possessed. M. W. Dick as Moscho, the top, proved to be extremely repulsive in an attractive sort of way. Sulky and jubilant by turns, his performance had attack, sparkle and polish. Potemo, A. S. Jeapes, while looking really superb failed to command attention or to render palatable the situations in which he found himself. The Goddess Ignorance was a maiden aunt of the most lovable type. D. V. Patrick in this part carried off his extremely long soliloquy in a masterly fashion, marred it only by repetitious and gestures and an apparent inability to stand on both feet at one and the same time. R. S. Betts gave a competent performance as Myrrhine, spoiled by the fact that he did not seem to know whether he was supposed to be wicked, friendly or merely indifferent. He spoke clearly and intelligently with point and vivacity but lacked a final aim. The character of Davus was admirably served by M. A. Phillips who gave a vividly funny performance. Occasionally however, his fine and most impressive Welsh accent got the better of him and he tended to become largely incomprehensible. Finally, a word of praise to the Cook of B. D. Clayson and the Porter of D. M. Pratt and two or three words to the speechless but hilarious sprinter of A. J. Thillingshas.

This then was a production of mingled pleasures and disappointments. (The curtain lines and situations were, with one exception, completely ineffective and seemingly badly rehearsed and the final tableau disastrously muddled). Nevertheless it was a production of immense and lasting entertainment value and this is after all the end to which any play strives and we are indebted to Mr. Smith and Mr. Vincent for providing us with such a delectable evening's fare and a production which was well worth all the talent, enthusiasm and hard work which went into it.

SIXTH FORM SOCIETY FILMS

La Pasion de Jeanne D'Arc ... Karl Dreyer
 Metropolis ... Fritz Lang
 The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari ... Robert Wiene

During the past year the Sixth Form Society has shown three films, all classics of the silent cinema. The three are notable in that each stands alone, off the main track of screen tradition. These films are individual, unlike any that many of us had seen before and this gave them an added attraction. They are not films whose merit is mainly to be found in their age alone, films introducing techniques and subjects which we can see employed with more skill at our local cinemas today, but films as original and self-supporting now as they were at the time of

their production. They make an excellent introduction to the silent film for an audience unused to the aesthetic virtuosity of the twenties and its spirit of adventure in experimenting with technical devices which today we accept so easily. These three films have performed a double function of providing us with a most satisfying experience and opening to our once unseeing eyes merits and defects of the film today. Although the films stimulated considerable discussion, on one occasion an informal debate, and it was evident that the cinema nature of the films did not deter most from employing their critical faculty to the full. There was no rushed and awed acceptance of films we had heard spoken of as masterpieces so many times before. But despite some times severe criticism they emerged triumphant but not unscathed. The film which was subject to most criticism was Metropolis.

Technically this was outstanding. Its imaginative and impressive models and sets were magnificent, providing a firm base for the huge conception of the film. But the film had an unfortunate tendency to hysteria and the crude dramatic treatment of the plot betrayed the intended nobility of the theme. It was the very grandeur of his vision that caused Lang to overstep himself. The weight, the power of part of the film, the horror of the machine, the implacable monotony of the miserable existence of the slave workers, this part was executed with such force that it over-shadowed the rest. Lang produced a great image of impersonal tragedy which he proved incapable of sustaining. It is in this image that the justification of the film lies and in this its greatness, not in its spurious message of hope and reconciliation. The whole plot and the conclusion does not even exist on the same plane as the creation which was its cause, neither the acting nor the direction were exceptional. Lang produced a great piece of imaginative cinema which was in no way hampered by any lack of modern resources, the conquest of difficulties gave a zest to the film which it could never lose, but to an audience whose attitude to films has been built up by those of the last five years the weaknesses were only too apparent. And I do not mean that it is time alone which revealed the defects of the film. Time only brought these defects into sharp relief. They existed from the beginning. Lang failed to hide the divergence between the idea and its execution, between his capabilities in one part and in another and so the film wanders between the heights of achievement and the depths of an undistinguished normality.

This defect was not revealed in the Cabinet of Dr. Caligari. Caligari is balanced, uniformly good. The sets and the camera work were unforgettable and however much psychologists may disagree with it as an exploration of the mind it remains one of the finest pieces of cinema of the silent days. But it is not the film as a whole which most impresses, the trick ending forbids this at the first viewing, it is the individual shots that remain in the mind; the acting of Conrad Veidt, his walk up the path carrying the girl, the opening of the cabinet, the stagger across the bridge, these are parts of the film it is impossible to forget. If it suffers from being over intellectual, the symbolism throughout the film is too forced, not generated by Caligari as a film. Throughout the film the audience has to be mentally alert and something of the film as a film is lost.

The finest film we saw, La Pasion de Jeanne d'Arc was also the purest cinema. Falconetti's Joan was a creation of character of which I have never seen the equal in any film. We may not agree with her interpretation of the part but it was an extraordinary experience to witness Dreyer's method was to film the trial almost entirely in close up giving it an atmosphere impossible to achieve conventionally. The trial became a drama of character between the clerical judges and Joan which reaches a climax when she renounces her recantation.

Here the tempo of the film changes and Joan's death is followed by fast moving and bloody insurrection. Throughout the camera is handled with skill and delicacy but always subordinate to the whole. This is the film's strength, the organic nature of its imagery, camera work, acting. Nothing is stressed at the expense of the whole and the whole is an exploration of the soul, of human nature revealed by a most delicate and careful sensibility. **Of the three films this was, to my mind, the greatest.**

C. M. W.

THE PILLAR

The pillar, sixteen centuries old and the everlasting monument to the transience of the Mayas, stood fixed in the clearing of silence and dappled sanctity that its presence had made in the chatter and screech and the tronded Guatemalan gloom. Reared by the inscrutable peoples of the past, worked into a thousand patterned and stylized scenes by the labour of their slim and supple hands, the mellowed sandstone column was something aloof from the luxuriant green vegetation around. The bare red earth around its base, and only the velvety tufts of a moss-plant ventured on to the carvings and ornaments, squeezing itself into the cracks and sheltered crannies on the north face. Otherwise bare, the shaft defiantly displayed its crisscrossing to the interlaced perimeter of its domain. Unappreciative, the palms and lofty cobans chafed each other stems as they struggled to leave the damp and heat of their tangled roots for the freedom of the brass-bright sky. They cared nothing for the suns and moons, the geometrical shapes and wared patterns which surrounded the figures, squares, stolid, hatted, of the Maya deities. The broad rose, the almond eyes, the thick lips of (quetzacocatl, god of light and air; the human sacrifices to the god of war; the gaping demonic faces; all left to a careless and unheeding posterity. The work of the Mayas had survived for nothing, only that wind-blown sand might grind away the sharp edges, the rain cut tunnels over the horizontal planes, drip make tiny pockets with their steady monotony; and that the heat of day and the cool of night might cause silvers and even great chips to crack away from the surface, and wide fissures of weakness disfigure the solid monolith.

All this for sixteen centuries—and then the man came. Bow at the ready in one hand, he parted the hanging foliage with the other, and stooped, his whole body tensed as he surveyed the clearing and the pillar in its centre. Everything was silent and still, the complete loneliness accentuated by the presence of a living being. Then he stepped forward and moved slowly round the outside of the tree-trunks space. He cautiously avoided, with a lithe, graceful action, the roots and matted plants, the dead boughs and debris. Always his dark eyes, glittering in the half-light, sought out fresh points of interest, and all his attention was focussed on the pillar. His head slowly turned as he look in every detail of its carving, its shape and size, from the base set in the soft earth, to the blunt point. Only this tip was lit evenly by the harsh tropical sun. The rest was mottled and shadowed, like the ground nearby, by the interference of the wide-spreading foliage above. As the man circled the pillar, his brown body was momentarily speckled by the bars of light. A sudden movement from the figure as he turned to look behind him, his awe turned to a passing fear, was like the stirring of a dry leaf, amidst the heavy calm of the forest.

Finally, the man found himself before the south face, the most ornamented side. Standing upon a large discarded block of stone, he looked the pillar up and down. The gesture, no longer tinged with awe, seemed the impudent survey of a dwarf before a colossus. His lips parted and from between the gleaming white teeth came a ringing laugh, dispelling any remaining nervousness. **Turning, even while the**

It is perhaps an indication of the lively activity of the Troop that the compilation of these notes each term finds us with more to look forward to than to record. But this naturally holds good for this form more than for the others in that many of its activities culminate in the Summer camp.

As part of the training for this, members of all patrols spent some days at the West Hoathly site during the Easter holidays (it was in fact used by various people during the whole holidays). If the Scouters did not mind and reason for raised eyebrows at some of the camping standards there, they may perhaps find excuse in the fact that this is the Troop's initiation into camping further afield and at a distance from the eye of authority. This distance, however, must not remain an excuse for slack standards, lax timetables and ill disciplined habits, but must be regarded by all Scouts of the Group, from seniors to recruits, as a challenge to show that trust implied is trust honoured and that a Scout is at his best when he has to depend upon himself.

Some smaller patrol groups, including a number of tenderfoot, have visited the Cabin for weekend camps and there have been patrol camps on the reservation.

Troop meetings have been mainly concerned with training and preparation for camp, and a few new games, with the exception of one evening meeting devoted to a "problem" like on Wimbledon Common which the Kingfishers almost interpreted as a midnight ramble.

In Association competitions we can record with some gratification the the 19th gained 1st and 3rd places in the District Scouting Contest. A composite patrol led by Christmas came in first and the Kingfishers, competing without "outside interference," came third. In the Camping Competition a composite patrol of younger members led by Stringer of the Seagulls, gained second place. These achievements are in themselves commendable, but are perhaps a little flattering, and we must not be satisfied until the standard of the winners reflects truly the general proficiency of all in the Troop. We look forward now to the Association's Athletic Sports which precede by a week the School Sports. In the Wimbledon District Youth Contest, Scouts took first place, and hold the Cup again, with the A.T.C. in second place. The 19th sent many competitors for the local Scout team.

The following proficiency badges have been won this term:

Artist M. L. Dick (Eagles)
Cook R. L. Tash (Kingfishers)

19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

D.P.

Athlete M. A. Rainbird (Woodpeckers) ...
 G. W. L. Terdic (Woodpeckers) ...
 R. H. Young (Eagles) ...
 R. L. Farth (Kingfishers) ...
 Air Spotter R. Loveday (Kingfishers) ...
 D. Bevan (Curtlews) ...
 J. Davies (Curtlews) ...
 R. L. Fash (Kingfishers) ...
 Camper ...
 The Kingfishers retain their lead in the Patrol Competition with Woodpeckers following second.

The 1950 Garden Party

For the sixth time during the first hour, the Headmaster dipped his hand into his pocket and paid the fare. His young daughter was having her sixth ride on the model steam railway and indeed, would quite happily have spent the whole day in riding from here to there and back again. But enthusiasm for this working model was not confined to the young. There were many of the not so young, of forty years or more, who were fascinated by this exhibit of the Sutton Model Engineering Club, and sought the details of steam pressure, brake horse power and gear ratios.

Not far away, bowlers deserted the cricket square to try fast balls, lob and off-breaks, to a wicket of coconuts. Not since the pre-war years have coconuts shies appeared among the fête attractions and in these fourteen years, coconuts apparently have lost none of their sweetness. Next door, the less energetic threw woolen balls at tin, painted, precarious klyptoids, and too persistently perpendicular. More dignified perhaps, and certainly in very charming surroundings, there was a putting green in the orchard. Even the lumps waved and the poppies bowed their heads in acknowledgement of a "hole in one." Here too, in the peaceful surroundings that Thomas Cobb intended them to be, many found rest and quiet from the fun fair outside. But there is little distance between contrasting emotions, love and hate, peace and fear, laughter and tears: a step from the orchard and lo, the haunted glen. What a distorted fearsome thing can be the mind of a Schooboy. And trail is the mind of the mature man who grumbles at the mention of Cripps and pays willingly to see and feel and hear the horrors of a haunted glen.

Sunshine and clear skies added colour and comfort to the day: some sought shelter from the heat in the cool darkness of the cinema upstairs. Others found refreshment in the Snack Bar, or cooling drinks from the Thick Shop, or in ice cream from the untailing depths of the ice box. Here, even if one did not find wanted bargains on the clothing stalls, among stamps, the household stall, a unique glassware stall and silk remnants, there were carnival novelties and balloons and the irresistible pull of raffics, tree gift vouchers for £20, for £10 of school uniform, crates of groceries and a tennis racket.

On the far side of the field, archery gave a link with the past and pleasure to the skilled: model aeroplanes strained at the wires as they chattered and screamed. In the annex, little electric trains flashed their scorn in silent circuits: a bookstall sold the remains of past reading and a holiday stall provided neck racks for the future.

With flowers and light music, teas were served in the Hall, quietly efficient and pleasing. Later, by one of those sudden transformations which School Hall takes in its stride, a light concert was given to a

packed audience. There were songs by Messrs. Loveday and Cholemondeley, music by Mr. Courtney, monologues by Mrs. Johnson and conjuring by a guest artist, Mr. King.

The Garden Party was once again a combined effort on the part of the Scout Group and the School. It has taken the goodwill of the original Scout fête and shows in its proceeds what can be done by parents, staff and boys working together energetically. The parents of scouts worked as before in patrol teams: parents of non-scouts joined forces in House units under the Housemaster's guidance. Boys generally were organised in forms and here we must pay credit to the Junior School and register disappointment at the apathy and lack of support from the Seniors, mainly sixth forms. And these Seniors stand to gain most by an enlarged General School Fund. Houses are now finding, as the Scouts did years ago, a great value and pleasure in co-operative activities with parents and that, even if the motive is immediately a pecuniary one, there is much to be gained by parents' evenings during the term. Some sectional expenses were deducted at source and only profits paid in. With these accounts as presented to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. W. G. Dick, they show a profit of £366 from the gross takings of £464. This means a substantial gain to the School and Scout Funds. We should be indeed grateful to all who helped, whether by purse, persuasion or participation, to achieve this result and grateful to those who worked hard afterwards to see that School could begin clean and normally on Monday morning.

SOCIETIES

THE GRAMOPHONE CLUB

This is the season for sherbet in summer palaces, for Mozart on heat-shaded terraces. Haydn through the purple dusk of foreign festivals and serenades waited by twilight. From the down chorus chant of fan skinned fishermen whispering across plundered seas cdb's among the unrecognised and unrecognisable in the Art room, proud among paint-pots, the Gramophone Club, dismissing suggestions of dilettantism, has wrestled with the floating vapours of Impressionism to no unimpressive effect. In a series of programmes on the music of Kavel and Debussy we have so far only just exhausted our available records of Kavel. Pursuing a roughly chronological order we have heard, among other things, the Introduction and Allegro for harp, the Daphnis and Chloe and Mother Goose suites, La Valse, Bolero and, in two very welcome and interesting sessions, L'Enfant et les Sortilèges. This is a delightful and penetrating study of the effect of gull and robust subconscious of a small child. While the caricature is forceful and robust it is tinged with that essence of faery grotesque which makes the Andersen or Grimm fit stuff for the most delicate sensibility. We are indebted to Mr. Hazell for the loan of these records.

During a three-week interlude occasioned by H.S.C. the patience of our classically inclined frequenters was rewarded by programmes of Mozart and Beethoven introduced by Lawrence. They heard, with two Mozart symphonies and a Beethoven piano concerto, the charming and Hydn-esque Serenade for thirteen wind instruments of Mozart. As a corporate body with a constitution established by custom and by Bearwell, our sometime secretary, we now stand without the very able support of the latter. Perhaps we may one day attain the distinction of being the School's most perennial society, if this comes to pass it will be an achievement built on sincere and conscientious foundations. We wish Shepherd, our new secretary, every success and hope that our supporters will lighten his task by a generous fund of ideas and material.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

President : Mr. A. Cholmondeley
Vice-President : Mr. T. H. Porter
Secretary : A. J. Hopkins

We were unfortunate at the end of last term to lose our liveliest member, Mr. Vincent. He had brought new vigour to the Society with his pregnant wit and was always generous in his hospitality. He left with us, however, the memory of a most comprehensive paper which he read to us at Christmas, on Late Latin Literature. He began by admitting a bias to Medieval Literature and said that he felt it was a mistake to think that style could be judged apart from content. [The value of Cicero, Caesar and Virgil was as much in what they had to say as in their method of presentation. Medieval writers also had much to say to our generation and the fact that their style does not conform to classical standards should not blind us to their many great qualities.]

Another point on which Mr. Vincent had rather strong feelings was the regarding of Ages of Latin Literature as complete entities. He argued that literary characteristics occurred in cycles and that, say, humour was just as alive in Medieval as in Classical Latin.

As his protagonist of Medieval Literature, Mr. Vincent cited Tertullian, fired with his religion, writing in an abrupt but sincere style. Finally, perhaps to contrast with the mention of such as Augustine and Boethius we were treated to a very amusing translation of the "Confession" of the Archpoet.

At the Easter meeting of the Society, we held a play-reading of the "Clouds" of Aristophanes, in order to initiate the newer members to Aristophanes and to show contrasts between such a New Comedy Old Comedy and the "Perichlomené" of Menander's New Comedy performed by the Middle School. The play well illustrates Aristophanes' witty dialogue in satirizing educationists and sophists.

At our Summer meeting we were treated to a more profound paper by Mr. Sykes on "The Development of the Greek Language." The first question which Mr. Sykes attempted to answer was why the Greek written language had remained static and remote from ordinary speech from the fourth century B.C. until A.D. 1500. In English, the gap between Beowulf and the present day is far smaller, but who except a trained student could read the English of Beowulf? Mr. Sykes explained in detail the sociological reasons for the absence of a living Greek literature in the Alexandrian School and then explained how the vacillations in the cultural and educational policy of the Church in the Byzantine period affected the development of the language.

The second question was why, and how the spoken language had changed. His talk was amply illustrated with examples of Greek of different periods, such as the Classical, the Hellenistic, the Medieval "Koine" and still developing modern Greek. It was a most illuminating talk on the Social background to one of the finest languages of the world.

A. J. H.

THE CHRISTIAN UNION

The founder of our present School Christian Union, David Langton, left at the end of this new venture's first term. At last, this time after two years, the initials at the bottom of these notes are to be replaced again by those of another. Perhaps a brief weighing-up of our present situation would not be amiss. It is possible that, as in September, 1948, next term will find that some members have left, and the arduous and so slow process of raising numbers will start over again. On the other hand, events of this term have shown that perhaps at last the Christian Union is establishing a tradition. A Survey Inter-Schools Christian Rally was held in our School hall on 7th June, when the speaker

was a local minister, Rev. E. W. Eyden, of St. Saviour's Church, Raynes Park. This was very successful, and some fifteen schools were represented. Much of the success was due to the active and welcome co-operation of the Headmaster and members of the staff, to whom our thanks are due. Concern for the happy continuance of our group next term under its new leader has been shown by the common-room, and we hope that support from these higher and more official quarters will establish the C.U. in its place as a vital part of the other than academic activities of the School. The presence of a member of the staff at our meetings now has made us feel less like the lonely band, the voices crying in the wilderness, as well.

These meetings have been interrupted this term (how often I seem to have written that sentence, term after term), this time by Higher School and General School Certificate examinations. Despite this we have started a series of meetings run by the members themselves, each volunteering to speak for ten or fifteen minutes upon some problem, aspect, or sphere of Christian living. A discussion follows, always fruitfully. One finds that everyone has something to contribute when they hear others talking of an experience that they themselves have undergone.

Next term—who knows? Malcolm Langton will be the new leader. I personally wish him God's richest blessing, for I know that God will bless greatly a work which, although it so often seems weary, unprogressive, useless, is yet for His glory and His work in this School. David Langton left a motto with the C.U. when he left—James I : 22— "I can not do better than to do the same. It is a word of encouragement. If ever we feel as Isaiah did, we can say with him, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God." (Isaiah 49 : 4). Remember, "casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you" (1 Peter 5 : 7).

565 SQUADRON A.T.C.

During the Easter holidays the Annual Camp was held at R.A.F. Station Abingdon, near Oxford. This proved to be an exceptionally interesting week, providing an insight into the working of a station largely engaged in training. Flying was done in a "snatching" a Horsas glider from the ground. The chief outside visit was to the printing works of the Oxford University Press where the process of making a book was followed from start to finish and patiently explained. The main event of the term was the Surrey Rally at Kenley on Saturday 20th May. Nearly all our cadets were able to attend what proved to be an exciting day. There was some local flying in the morning but the afternoon's programme was limited by low cloud—inverted enemy of aerobatics. A large parade of all Surrey squadrons was inspected by Air Commodore T. N. McEvoy, C.B.E., Air Officer Commanding 61 Group, who afterwards took the salute at a march past. Training has been dominated by the June proficiency examination for which six cadets sat—a large number for this Squadron. Results have yet to be published.

L. D. L.

THE SPUR MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

At last we are able to claim some achievement. Our preliminary circuit was duly completed and wired up in time (only just in time) for the Garden Party.

By the kind generosity of the Head, it was possible to purchase our first locomotive—"Dubs" "Dubs" "Dubs" in the pre-nationalized uniform of the L.M.S. This attractive and treasured

model worked well, hauling a short (borrowed) train of L.M.S. corridor stock.

The standard "Dubb" locos have to be altered to suit our "Stud" control system. This has been successfully done, and a tank loco belonging to one of our members has also been converted. The two models worked very well on the occasion of our first public demonstration.

To add colour to our layout, other locos and stock, together with scenic effects were loaned, we hope the effect was not unduly criticized, for we were conscious of the obvious lack of scenic planning on this occasion.

Since the Garden Party, we have set to work building our own models. We have also been able to add our own coaches and control panel.

Now that we have something substantial to show, we hope that further members may be attracted. A deal of money has been invested in our layout, and it is certainly worth the support that our enthusiastic members loyally give.

Visitors are always welcome on Monday evenings from 7.15 p.m. We work to high ideals, but although our present standards may not entirely satisfy our aims, our layout grows and progresses towards our goal.

There is always interest, and we welcome suggestions and comments.

OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

For the first time, this is an article from the Old Boys' Society addressed directly to the School. In the past the Old Boys' notes or letters in THE SPUR held little interest for the majority of boys at School who are its principal readers, just as the remainder had little to attract those Old Boys whose School career was of the somewhat distant past. Now, when the Society is publishing its own magazine, it has a chance to address in these pages those whose magazine is THE SPUR.

This, frankly, is a recruiting notice. The Committee hope that in the last few years, boys at School have become increasingly aware of the Old Boys' Society. The fact that the School was opened in 1935, meant that the early stages of the Society's development were dominated by the War, and that its essential expansion could not begin until 1946. It is a slow process in any event to build an effective organisation, but much has been accomplished already, including the formation of Rugger and Cricket clubs with full fixture lists, whose successes on the field have perhaps proved astounding to many. The great need now is more support, which really means more members, both active and passive, for a most important function is to keep Old Boys in touch with each other and with the School. It is significant that a large number of the Society's Life members are men whose vocations take them overseas, away from the opportunity of participation in its activities. This should be noted by those boys who leave School and go quickly into National Service.

Essentially the object of its activities is the continuance and development of friendship and the community interest which arises in an organisation like a school. Moreover, the Society cuts right across the strict "generations" of School life: the Sports clubs soon showed how prefect and junior boy, and even those who were not at School at all together, can mix freely and profitably. But it should not be imagined that the emphasis is always upon sport, for equally as important in effecting this object are the discussion groups, dances, rambles, and even the swimming in Queensmere early on Sunday mornings. The "Old Spur," on the other hand, is a welcome link for all those who cannot join in many of our activities for one reason or another, while the Annual Reunion Dinners should be considered the culmination of all the Society's activities.

Much more can be done and other ideas developed, if our membership increases and more of those members come forward to give help. That is why we wish to bring the Society especially to the notice of those about to leave School, for time does make its utter changes, and once contact with the School and the Old Boys' Society is broken, it is often difficult to re-establish.

The Headmaster is also our President, and Mr. R. Loveday, Chairman of the Committee and our chief liaison in the Staff Common Room. He will always be ready to supply information about the Society—and, of course, to collect subscriptions. Finally, it must be brought to your notice that the annual subscription is 7s. 6d., and that a subscription paid by a boy leaving in July is effective for the remainder of the year and also for the whole of the next year.

The Society needs you and we hope you will enjoy being a part of it.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of THE SPUR

Dear Sir,

May I once again beg the hospitality of your pages to make one or two comments on and add one or two points to Mr. Vincent's report, in your last issue, on the competition for the Michael Welby Public Speaking Cup?

I will not comment on Mr. Vincent's view that the elections this year have shown that people are politically maturer than formerly, but I would like to take up this point that a debating competition can be of value only if there is opportunity for plenty of practice in the preceding months. It was precisely to stimulate the desire for this practice; the desire to continue and develop the School's undoubted tradition and reputation in the art of public speaking that the competition was initiated.

Those of us who were at School in the days of James Joyce, Paul Pringle, Roger Carolin, Denis Cheatle and the rest, all with their varied techniques and appeal, are desperately anxious that tradition they helped to create and sustain shall go from strength to strength, not fade into the realm of forgotten things—because we believe that this is one of that small group of traditions which are healthy and worthwhile. Thus the Debating Competition is, to us, a means to an end, not an end in itself.

Finally may I say a word about the competition itself? I heard the final round only and at the end I was left with two very clear impressions. One was that all the speakers *appeared* to be completely at ease. There was little hesitation and none of those awful pauses when a chap who has got nothing worth saying is trying to think of what to say. The second impression was that almost all the speakers lacked the ability to *argue* their case. Only one out of ten made any serious attempt to develop a logical argument. The expression of passionate beliefs devoid of reason is surely not enough. Speakers must set out to *convince* the other chap. No-one on this occasion convinced me about anything, least of all about something as controversial as culture.

Nevertheless, a start has been made and with the inevitable polishing-up that something new always needs, I am sure the Public Speaking Competition will, in due course, after its period of probation, take its place on equal status with all the other events in the School year.

Yours sincerely,

ANTONY EVANS.

CRICKET

1st XI

1st XI RESULTS	
v. Wallington C.G.S.	... (A) Lost, 53-28
v. St. George's College	... (H) Won, 47-25
v. Epsom College 2nd XI	... (H) Won, 47-96 for 3 wkts.
v. Wandsworth C.G.S.	... (H) Draw, 89 for 8 dec.-50 for 5 wkts.
v. Spur Old Boys	... (H) Lost, 98-85
v. City Freemans' School	... (A) Lost, 98-141
v. Surbiton C.G.S.	... (A) Draw, 87 for 5 dec.-50 for 8 wkts.
v. Bec School, Tooting	... (H) Won, 98 for 8 dec.-54
v. King's College 2nd XI	... (A) Won, 116 for 7 dec.-91

1st XI

Although the 1st XI has enjoyed a fair amount of success, the high hopes with which we began the season have not been fully justified. We began by losing to Wallington (Away) in a game characterized by inaccurate bowling, moderate fielding, and indifferent batting, on a wicket which was an improvement on many we have encountered at Wallington in the past. Since then we have lost to the Old Boys, and the City Freeman's School, Ashtead, but have beaten St. George's College, Epsom College 2nd XI, Bec School and King's College 2nd XI.

Two features of this season's batting have been lack of confidence, and the consequent lack of scoring power. Adequate defence has been shown at times, but too many batsmen have failed to treat full tosses and half-volleys on their merits, with the result that run-getting at times has been more tedious and laborious than that of a test match. Shepherd, and to a lesser degree Holgate, have been exceptions; the former has done well, but the latter has given the impression that he knew he was out of form and wished to hurry things along as much as possible, during the brief time he would be at the wicket. Ferebee has shown he can do well if he survives his shaky opening periods, by an attractive innings against Epsom College, in which he just missed reaching fifty, whilst Wade and Mason have done well occasionally. Of the rest, Wright, Burgess, Tutt and Jonas, have had a disappointing season.

On the whole, the bowling has been an improvement on the batting. Wade, though not so consistent as last season, has had brilliant spells, particularly against St. George's College, when he took seven wickets for seven runs, all clean bowled. Aldham and Wright have been steady and consistent while Holgate did well against the City Freeman's School. Ferebee's ability to spin the ball, however, will avail him little, until he learns to avoid bowling short, and giving away no balls by careless positioning of the back foot. The general impression is that more might have been achieved by more judicious use of the bowling.

Adequacy without distinction has been the feature of the fielding in which slovenliness and lack of concentration have been noticeable at times. Quick, accurate throwing at bail height would help the man behind the stumps and enable him to how wicket-keeping rather than goal-keeping qualities. On the other hand he should remember three main points: first, a position well up or well back when receiving bowling, second, the use of the feet to enable him to take the ball in both hands, and third, the carrying of the ball to the bails on every possible occasion. Fielding and wicket-keeping require practice as much as batting and bowling.

Of the nine matches played so far this season, four have been won, two drawn, and three lost, but there are sufficient matches left for us to finish well on the credit side.

W. H. H.

2nd XI

2ND XI RESULTS	
v. Wallington C.G.S.	... (H) Lost, 27-58
v. St. George's College	... (A) Won, 68-69 for 2 wkts.
v. Epsom College 3rd XI	... (A) Draw, 140-68 for 8 wkts.
v. Surbiton C.G.S.	... (H) Draw, 79 for 6 dec.-72 for 9 wkts.
v. Bec School, Tooting	... (A) Lost, 44-51.
	... "A" XI
v. Badingham College	... (A) Won, 73 for 7 dec.-49.

2nd XI

The 2nd XI results have not been as favourable as might have been desired but the games have always been enjoyable. In the match against Wallington we suffered from a weakened team but were re-inforced by three members of the Colt XI. Wallington scored 58 (G. Smith 6 for 20), but we were dismissed for 27.

St. George's College were defeated quite comfortably by eight wickets (D. Mackelworth 29).

Thinking of last year's crushing defeat we took the field against Epsom College with more than a slight tremor of fear. However we managed to force a draw, a great improvement on last year's result.

The fourth match versus Surbiton ended in an exciting finish. Having declared at 79 for 6 (M. Biggs 30 n.o.) we set about dismissing Surbiton. On the fourth ball of the last over we captured their ninth wicket with the score at 72 but could not dismiss their last man.

Tooting Bec gave us another good match. We were dismissed for the meagre total of 44 but after capturing 6 for 38 and then 9 for 43 we finally lost by 3 runs (J. Templeton 7 for 16, including a hat-trick).

COLT XI

Won 1; Drawn 2; Lost 2.

In this year's Colt XI we have one very good all-rounder, a very promising wicket-keeper, and a number of useful batsmen and bowlers. Tillinghast has captained the team with intelligence and understanding. He has shown good judgment in placing his field and handling his bowlers, and has been constantly on the alert to make tactical changes when necessary during the course of play. He has shown initiative both on and off the field in looking after the interests of his team, and has received able assistance from several of his colleagues, in particular G. H. Smith.

Nearly every member of the team can play correct strokes, though few have made good scores. Lack of practice against good bowling and failure to concentrate closely enough are mainly responsible for this. G. H. Smith has shown most confidence, and he will be a formidable attacking batsman when he learns to treat the good ball with respect, at least early in his innings. Bunyan and Tillinghast play very good shots in the nets, but in match play show defensive weaknesses which practice will eradicate. Good has not found his proper form this season, but should not lose heart. He has an unorthodox style which can be very effective when he is seeing the ball well. Jeapes has grown in stature considerably since last year, and has had some difficulty in finding the co-ordination which good batting requires. He will regain his form if he concentrates and tightens up his defence. Of the remainder, Menzies has shown most consistent scoring power, and will be a good bat if he remembers to move his foot well up to the ball and so keep his forward shots safely along the ground. Jackson, Grove, Tulett, and Shepherd, D. C., are improving in ability and confidence, and Rose and Smith, M. L. look more like batsmen with every game they play. Ridgway, though not a regular member of the team, has done well enough in House Matches to suggest considerable promise, and Cook, also in House Matches, has shown a thorough knowledge of the game.

In bowling this year we have missed the habitual accuracy of Grove, who started the season late and lacks practice. I hope and believe he will recover his form of last year. As a shock bowler Smith, G. H., has proved consistently effective, though his is apt to tire and lose his length. He should cut down his run and concentrate more on accuracy. **On a wicket which suits him, Lee can be deadly.** With practice he will learn to keep down runs even on a wicket favourable to the batsmen. Lewis is keen, fiery, but erratic. Rose, Tillinghast, Jeapes, and Tulett have bowled well on occasion.

The standard of fielding has been high, though sometimes lacking the extra "bite" which wins matches. Grove and Tillinghast have been outstanding in bringing off a number of difficult catches. Of Mervyn Smith's wicket-keeping I have spoken at the beginning of these notes. In spite of its meagre tally of wins, this team contains much cricketing ability which is, at present, obscured by nervousness and uncertainty.

G. J. A.

ATHLETICS

There has been a marked improvement in the standard of school athletics this term. We have for the first time held a home fixture and two away matches besides the usual large meetings which we attend.

We started the term with a home meeting against Wallington County School, who are usually among the leaders at Imber Court. The final result was a win for the home side by 58 points to 55 points. We were pleasantly surprised by the result of the meeting as we gained eight first places in nineteen events. Among the results the School open high jump record was broken by N. J. McDonald, and now stands at 5 ft. 6 ins.

Our next fixture was less successful in that we lost to Sutton County School by 55 points to 43 points; the only good performances being by Wolkenberg, who was first in the 220 yards in 24.3 secs., Casselton in the 440 yards, who was second to Stoneham—the Imber Court record holder for the quarter and half mile—and McDonald who was second in the long jump with a jump of 19 ft. 6 ins.

In the Wimbledon District Sports we repeated our performance of 1949 by winning the Senior Cup and running a close second in the Junior Cup. Fourteen of our boys were selected to represent Wimbledon in the County Sports, where they put up an excellent showing, especially Casselton by winning the Senior 440 in 53.6 secs., Law, who put up a new record in the Senior Shot at 43 ft. 5½ ins., and Eales who ran away from the field in the Junior 220. Birkett, Wise and Wolkenberg also did well.

At Imber Court this year our Junior team were second, equal with Surbiton County School, while the Seniors maintained the fifth place. The following were placed in their events:—

Seniors

Casselton	...	...	...	1st in the 440 yards
G. D. Pegrum	...	...	...	2nd in the discus
N. J. McDonald	...	...	...	3rd, equal in the high jump
Wolkenberg	...	...	...	4th in the 220 yards
Lavender	...	...	...	4th in the hurdles

Colts

Brooke	...	...	...	1st in the high jump
Eales	...	...	...	1st in the 220 yards
Reeves	...	...	...	4th in the 880 yards

Juniors

Michez	...	...	...	4th in the 220 yards
Relay Team	...	...	...	4th

We have some very promising athletes in the making, and next year I anticipate even better positions at Imber Court. The outstanding performance of the term to date has been made by P. J. Casselton, who won the quarter-mile at Imber Court, and who both won and broke the record for the 440 yards in the Surrey Secondary School Sports in the very good time of 53.6 secs. Next year I think we can reasonably expect him to make a bid for the Imber Court record which stands at 52.8 secs. K. Eales is the only member of the School to have gained two first places at Imber Court and if he improves steadily, should be among the best athletes in the country. Brooke did very well to win the Colt high jump, and if he concentrates on style, should improve rapidly. Wolkenberg has also run well this season; his best time being 23.6 secs. for the 220 yards.

This year we have started three new events; the discus, javelin, and pole vault. Naturally there are only a few who have attained a moderate standard of proficiency, but next year, at the present rate of progress, we should see some good performances in these events, as well as those with which we are more familiar.

N. J. McD.

General interest in athletics has been good, although training has been interrupted by the protracted nature of the external examinations. Some boys have shown a lack of persistence in their training, particularly when adopting a new method. In spite of the fact that most boys below the sixth form have had an opportunity to train on and have been introduced to the western roll high jump, very few have attempted to qualify using this method, including some of our best performers. Birkett did achieve 5 ft. 4½ ins. by the old method and held the high jump record for a few days only to have it taken away by McDonald who had a brief return to his best form and jumped 5 ft. 6 ins. by the new, more orthodox method.

McDonald and Simpson have worked very hard as Captain and Secretary of the Athletics team and are to be congratulated on the successes they have had. I. B. S. Law has given them very useful support. Casselton has been awarded his colours.

LAWN TENNIS

The poor condition of the courts and its surrounds continues to handicap school lawn tennis. New netting has been ordered and there is some hope of resurfacing, while the resetting of the posts in concrete was successfully undertaken. The House competition was reorganised—each team now consists of two singles players, two doubles pairs and a junior doubles pair. The new arrangement gives a wider scope and fewer games to avoid the long drawn-out matches of previous years. A very modest fixture list has been arranged, which had an inauspicious beginning at Beckenham, where we lost 1-8, the change from hard to grass courts proving too much for our players.

P. O. D.

BOXING CLUB

In spite of our high hopes for Biggs' success, he was eliminated from the Schoolboy Championships in the quarter-finals at Morden. He is to be congratulated on his fine boxing in all the bouts in which he has competed, and it is fair to say that he was not a little unlucky in the quarter-finals.

Gibb's, under the compelling leadership of their boxing captain, Bunch, made a great effort and fully deserved their victory in the very hard battle for the S. B. Phillip's Cup. A total of nearly seventy bouts was boxed, Gibb's being represented in many of them, and providing six School Champions, as well as two members of the School Team. Members of the School Team did not box in the competition.

Finishing Order of Houses. Gibb's 162, Cobb's 133, Newsom's 122, Halliwell's 98, Milton's 90.

Individual Champions (School boxers in brackets).

Junior

Under 5 st. No Competition Under 6½ st. Gooding (G)
 Under 5½ st. Bannister (C) Under 7 st. Hulatt (G)
 (Forster (N)) Under 7½ st. Dorey (N) (Croft (C))
 Under 6 st. Weightman (N) Under 8 st. Michez (N)
 (Gallagher (G))

Intermediate

Under 6 st. Dunn (M) Under 9 st. Reeves (N) (Taylor (H))
 Under 6½ st. Burrage (C) Under 9½ st. Eales (C) (Biggs (C))
 Under 7 st. Gubb (M) (Overweights—matches arranged over
 (Hooper (H)) usual weights)
 Under 7½ st. Andrews (M) Under 10 st. Langton (M)
 Under 8 st. Shepherd (C) Under 10½ st. Christmas (M)
 (Pratt (G)) Over 11 st. Birkett (G)
 Under 8½ st. Hobbs (G)

Senior

Under 8 st. Hamilton (G) Under 10 st. Mackelworth (N)
 Under 8½ st. No Competition Under 10½ st. Wade (M)
 (Palmer (H)) Under 11 st. Davies (H) (Tutt (M))
 Under 9 st. Templeton (G) Over 11 st. Simpson (N)
 Under 9½ st. Shepherd (C)

SWIMMING

In a Summer term packed with activity swimming holds an important place, if only because water is a refreshing refuge from the afternoon heat of a London suburb. More positive enthusiasm has been shown by those who appear at Wimbledon at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning—with or without breakfast. Then and on games afternoons qualifying has gone ahead steadily, Gibb's being well in the lead at the time of writing and thus in a strong position before the actual Sports begin.

So far no inter-Schools swimming galas have taken place. On the basis of those events, however, and on general service to School swimming, the Captain of Swimming, D. A. W. Marles, will award the recently instituted Swimming Colours.

L. D. L.

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